

YUMEKUI KENBUN
NIGHTMARE INSPECTOR



ユメクシ KENBU
NIGHTMARE INSPECTOR



STORY AND ART BY SHIN MASHIBA

MADNESS

YUMEKUI KENBUN

NIGHTMARE INSPECTOR



CONTENTS

The Forty-Ninth Night...
Madness

003

The Fiftieth Night...
The Bellman's Owner

029

The Fifty-First Night...
Flow

041

The Fifty-Second Night...
The Inn

065

The Fifty-Third Night...
Chant

089

The Fifty-Fourth Night...
Scissors

113

The Fifty-Fifth Night...
The Elevator

137

The Fifty-Sixth Night...
Hifumi & Shigamori

161

Afterward...

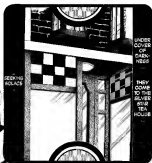
173



**THE
FORTY-
NINTH
NIGHT:
MADNESS**









SO YOU WANT ME TO MAKE SURE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN BY STOPPING YOU IN YOUR DREAM? WELL, ALL RIGHT.



I HATE HIM SO MUCH.

IF I MEET KUROSHIMA IN MY DREAM, I MIGHT ACT UPON THIS MURDEROUS RAGE THAT'S WITHIN ME. AND THEN, WHEN I WAKE UP, I'LL DO IT IN REAL LIFE TOO...



OH, YES.

SO WHAT'S YOUR NIGHT-MARE?



IN MY DREAM, I'M LOOKING FOR A WEAPON.

I NEED IT TO KILL MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND, KUROSHIMA...

SLEEP
NOW...
LEAVE
THIS
WORLD
BEHIND.





AND NOW
HE WANTS
MY WATCH,
THE ONLY
THING I HAVE
LEFT!

MY LATE
GRAND-
FATHER
LEFT
ME THIS
WATCH!



TELL ME,
WHY DO
YOU WANT
TO KILL
YOUR
CHILDHOOD
FRIEND?



HE'S SUCH
A TYRANT.
HE HARASSES
ME AND ORDERS
ME AROUND LIKE
A SLAVE. AND
HE'S TAKEN
ANYTHING I'VE
EVER HAD!

MY MONEY,
MY POSSES-
SIONS...
EVEN MY
LOVER!



I'VE
TOLERATED
EVERYTHING
ELSE, BUT
I WON'T
LET HIM
TAKE THIS!



AND
THAT'S
WHAT
TIPPED
YOU
OVER
THE
EDGE...

EXACTLY!





THERE WAS NO LOOK IN THE FIRST PLACE.



WHY DIDN'T HE JUST CUT KUROBHAMMA OUT OF HIS LIFE IF HE'S SO TORMENTED?



CLATCH



STRANGE... WHY WOULDN'T IT OPEN WHEN SOLDA TRIED THE DOOR?



IT OPENED!





I HEAR
THAT YOUR
FRIENDSHIP
WITH SOUDA
ISN'T GOING
SO WELL.

WHO
ARE
YOU?
NOT
THAT I
CARE.

ARE YOU
KURO-
SHIMA?



HA HA.
WE'VE KNOWN
EACH OTHER FOR
MORE THAN TEN
YEARS, BUT I'D
CALL IT MORE OF A
MASTER-SERVANT
RELATIONSHIP THAN A
FRIENDSHIP.



HE CAN'T
STAY AWAY,
BECAUSE DEEP
DOWN HE WANTS
TO BE LIKE ME.



IT DIDN'T
USED TO
BE LIKE THAT.
BUT HE'S SO
PATHETIC.
HE'S SUCH A
PUSHOVER.

THAT'S WHY
HE DOES
WHATEVER
I ASK HIM.
HANGING
AROUND WITH
ME GIVES
MEANING
TO HIS LIFE.



IT'S ABOUT
TIME I GO
GET HIS
WATCH...

BE CAREFUL.
SQUADA IS
PLANNING TO
KILL YOU.

KILL
ME?!



HE'S SO
DOMINEERING
AND
CONCERNED.

WHICH IS EVERYTHING SQUADA IS NOT.
NO WONDER HE ADMIRES HIM.







ARE YOU
A FRIEND OF
SOUJA'S?



I'M
SHIRA-
KAWA.

SOUJA HAS
BEEN CONFIDING
IN ME. I'VE
BEEN WORRIED
THAT HE'S BEEN
ACTING STRANGE
LATELY, SO I'M
LOOKING FOR HIM.



THERE'S
SOMEONE
ELSE IN THIS
NIGHTMARE?



IT WOULD
BE MUCH
BETTER TO
MANIPULATE
KUROSHIMA
INSTEAD.
HE'S SUCH A
SIMPLETON.

HE'S SUCH
AN IDIOT.
KILLING
KUROSHIMA
WOULD
ONLY HURT
HIMSELF.



REALLY?
MAYBE
THAT'S
WHY
SODA
SEEKS
ME OUT,
TO
CALM
DOWN.



WELL,
SINCE
HE'S A
CHILDHOOD
FRIEND, I
THOUGHT
I SHOULD
CHECK ON
HIM AT
LEAST.

YOU
SEEM
CALM,
GIVEN
YOUR
FRIENDS'
CIRCUM-
STANCES.

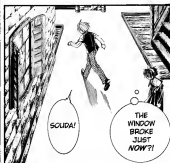


BUT IT'S
PITIFUL
WHEN I
SEE HOW
MUCH HE
WANTS
TO BE
LIKE ME.

SODA!

YES... IF ONLY HE WAS MORE
CUNNING LIKE SHIRAKAWA.





NO,
THAT'S
ME.

ALL THE DIFFERENT EVENTS ARE HAPPENING AT THE SAME TIME.





WHAT?!
THAT'S NOT
POSSIBLE!

I'VE BEEN
ABLE TO MEET
AND SPEAK WITH
ALL THREE OF
YOU AT EXACTLY
THE SAME TIME.
BUT, TO BE PRECISE,
THAT'S BECAUSE—



THERE'S NO
POINT IN ME
BEING IN THIS
NIGHTMARE
ANYMORE.
I'M LEAVING.



SH



HE
DOESN'T
GET IT.
I SHOULD
HAVE
KNOWN.

BUT
MORE
IMPOR-
TANTLY,
WE HAVE
TO STOP
SQUAD!



I'LL
LEAVE
THAT
UP TO
YOU!



SHIRAKAWA,
THAT DOOR
CAN ONLY
BE OPENED
BY ME.

WELL,
UNLESS
YOU BURN
IT DOWN.



IN OTHER
WORDS,
KUROSHIMA
AND SHIRAKAWA
WERE BOTH
SOLDA.



WHY??

BECAUSE
"SOLDA"
WAS THE ONLY ONE
IN THE DREAM.



ALL
AT THE
SAME
TIME?
BUT
HOW?



THAT'S
WHY
I WAS
THE
ONLY
PERSON
WHO
COULD
OPEN
THE
DOOR.

BUT
BECAUSE
THEY
WERE
REALLY
THE SAME
PERSON,
THEY
COULD
NEVER
MEET.
THEY
EACH
HAD THEIR
OWN
TIME, AND
SPACE
THAT WAS
SEPARATED
BY A
BARRIER,
THE DOOR.

THAT WAS
REFLECTED
IN HIS
DREAM
AND HE
SPLIT
INTO
THREE
PEOPLE.
OF COURSE,
SOLDA
DIDN'T
REALIZE
THIS SINCE
EACH
PERSON
OCCUPIES
HIS OWN
PLACE
IN TIME.



DOES
SOLDA
KNOW
HOW TO
OPEN
THE
DOOR?
OR
CAN HE
OPEN
IT
BY
MAGIC?



DOES
SOLDA
KNOW
HOW TO
OPEN
THE
DOOR?
OR
CAN HE
OPEN
IT
BY
MAGIC?



HE MAY BECOME A MURDERER EVEN IF HE DOESN'T OPEN THE DOOR...
OR PERHAPS IT WILL END DIFFERENTLY...





GIVE
THAT
TO ME!

CARE-
FUL!



I FINALLY
FOUND IT!

EEK!



HUH?
THIS HNT
WHAT I—

?!



I DID MY
PART.

YOU WERE
SUPPOSED
TO STOP
ME FROM
ACTING IN
REAL LIFE.
I'M SCARED
THAT I'M
GOING TO
KILL KURO-
SHIMA.



IT'S
ALREADY
STARTED...

WHATEVER
HAPPENS
NOW IS UP
TO YOU.

BONG

THIS
SCENE



THE ONLY
REALLY
I HAVE A
WEAPON!

BONG



SO YOU
REALLY
WERE
GOING TO
KILL ME.



HMM?
SO YOU
WANT
ME TO
PUNISH
YOU, EH?

HEY, LISTEN!
I ONLY TOLD
YOU SO THAT
YOU WOULD
UNDERSTAND
HIS DISTRESS
...

HEY,
SOLDA!
I HEARD
ALL ABOUT
IT!



THEN I'LL
KILL YOU.

AH...



KUROSHIMA
INJURED
HIS RIGHT
HAND, SO
HE PULLED
AT THE
DOOR KNOB
WITH HIS
LEFT.



... BUT IT'S ALL BEING
PLAYED OUT BY SOLDA.



AH...



THEY'RE
REACTING
EXACTLY
LIKE
WHEN
THEY
WERE
THREE
PEOPLE...

SO HE DID
BURN THE
DOOR...
AND NOW
THEY'VE ALL
CONVERGED.



HEY, CALM DOWN!
SOLDA IS TRYING
TO RESIST YOU!

HA!
I'LL ONLY
HURT HIM
ENOUGH
SO HE
REGRETS
WHAT HE DID.
THERE'S NO
POINT IN
SCREWING
UP MY OWN
LIFE BY
KILLING HIM.



I'LL
KILL YOU
BEFORE
YOU KILL
ME.

WHY IS
MY BODY
DOING
THIS?

N-
NO...

IS THIS
SOME
KIND OF
JOKE?!!
OH, YOU
WANT
TO DIE,
DO YOU?
THEN LET
ME KILL
YOU!



I WONDER
WHICH IS
STRONGER...
HIS LEFT
HAND OR
HIS RIGHT?



SHIRAKAWA'S
RIGHT HAND
WAS PUSHING
ON THE DOOR.



KU-
KURO-
SHIMA...
YOU...!

AH...

AH...

WHO
KNEW...



...THE DREAM
WOULD END
LIKE THIS.



YOU...
YOU
GOTTA
BELIEVE
ME.

I
DIDN'T
...

...



IT...
IT
WASN'T
ME!

HE WAS
PULLING
MY HAND.



I SAW
SOUHA
TRYING TO
STOP YOU.
WE SHOULD
GO TO THE
POLICE.



BUT, KUROSHIMA...

YOU'LL BE BRANDED AS A MURDERER FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE—
A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH!

HA HA... NOW ISN'T THAT SOMETHING!

**THE
FIFTIETH
NIGHT:
THE
DELIRIUM'S
OWNER**

WAAH!
PLEASE
HELP ME...
KAIRI, HE...

DING

FOR THE
PAST FEW
DAYS HE'S
HAD AN
UPSET
STOMACH.

SHIMA,
RIGHT?
WHAT'S
HAPPENED
TO KAIRI?

OH, YOU'RE
FROM THE
DELIRIUM.

BUT IF HE'S
THE OWNER,
SURELY HE
CAN GET OUT?

OH, THE
ROOMS
WHERE
FANTASIES
BECOME
REAL...

*What an
idiot.*

*So
hee...*

HE MEANT TO
GO TO THE
RESTROOM,
BUT HE WAS
SO LOST IN HIS
FANTASY THAT
HE WENT INTO
ONE OF THE
ROOMS INSTEAD.
SHOULD HE DO
IT IN THERE...



BUT HE'S HELPED US OUT! WE SHOULD GO SAVE HIM!

IS HE THAT DANGEROUS?

HEH. HE'D PROBABLY LIKE THE IDEA OF BEING DESTROYED BY HIS OWN FANTASIES.



BUT HE'S THE EPITOME OF A FANTASIZER. HE DOESN'T CARE FOR REALITY. AND MORE IMPORTANTLY...



"I'LL FIX YOUR BROKEN CANE..."

HELPED US...



...
BLOWING
THE
ROOM
UP.

YOU'RE RIGHT. WE OWE HIM ONE...



IT'LL BE DANGEROUS, SO YOU SHOULD WAIT HERE, SHIMA.

HE'S IN THIS ROOM.



LET'S GO, HIFUMI.

WHY'S THE WALL HERE DIFFERENT? IT SEEMS NEWER...



C R E E A K K K





I ACTUALLY
THOUGHT IT
WOULD BE
WORSE.

UGH, SO THIS IS
KAIRI'S FANTASY...
IT'S SO CHAOTIC.

*It's what I'd
expect from him.*

HA
HA
HA
...

How true...

I'M THE
REAL
KAIRI!

IF WE CAN
GET KAIRI
TO COME TO
HIS SENSES,
WE SHOULD BE
ABLE TO GET HIM
OUT OF HERE.
BUT WHICH
ONE IS HE?



THE KAIRI
AT THE
DELIRIUM IS
STANDING
IN FOR ME.
I CONTROL
HIM...



WE'LL JUST
HAVE TO
FIND THE
REAL ONE.

THIS IS
GETTING
REALLY WEIRD.
THEY'RE ALL
SAYING THEY'RE
THE REAL KAIRI.
WHAT ARE WE
GOING TO DO?

I'M A
CHARACTER
IN A MANGA
THIS IS THE
REAL ME

NO,
I'M
THE
REAL
KAIRI



HA HA!
I'M THE
REAL
ONE.

MY STOMACH
IS A BOTTOM-UP
EGG PIT...
FEEL WONDER
WHAT WILL BE
LEFT OVER?

UNCONSCIOUS,
HUH? BUT HOW
DO WE FIND THE
REAL ONE?

BUT WE WON'T
BE ABLE TO
STOP HIM FROM
FANTASIZING,
SO WE'LL HAVE
TO KNOCK HIM
OUT AND DRAG
HIM OUT OF
HERE WHILE HE'S
UNCONSCIOUS.



IF HE'S THE
REAL ONE,
HE'LL BE IN
AGONY!

I GET IT.
THEN LET'S
MAKE THEM
ALL DRINK
SOME OF THIS
AND SEE WHAT
HAPPENS!

WE SHOULD
LOOK FOR
SOMEONE WITH
AN UPSET
STOMACH,
RIGHT?

OH, I'M
THE—!





OF COURSE.



HEY, THEY'RE ALL FINE.

SUCH STRONG WILL!

They're about



Is that what you look like when you're all of the things?

HE'S THE ONLY ONE READING HIMSELF WITH PAPER. HE'S THE ONLY RATIONAL ONE.

PERHAPS THE DISTORTION OF THIS ROOM CREATED THIS RATIONAL PERSONALITY THAT WOULDN'T NORMALLY EXIST...



THERE IS NO REAL OR FAKE ONE.

IT'S A SHAME, BUT IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO BRING THEM ALL TO THEIR SENSES...

ALL OF THEM ARE PART OF MY CHAOTIC SELF.



WELL, AS A LAST RESORT...

RIGHT! SO WHAT DO WE DO TO GET OVER THE LAST WAVE?







Was that
a fantasy
too?

HMM?



THERE'S
A HOLE
IN THAT
WALL
NOW.



STAIRS



HEY,
HIRUKO,
WHAT WAS
THAT...?



KARR!



WH
NI
...

HIS RATIO-
NALITY WAS
LIMITING
THE FANTASY,
SO WHEN
THAT WENT
AWAY, THERE
WERE NO MORE
RESTRICTIONS.
THE ROOM
EXPLODED...



GREAT!
YOU'RE
BACK!
DID YOU...

HMM?
WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?





NO
LONGER
NEEDED
...?



LOOK!
HE'S
PANICKING!
MUST BE
RIGHT!

WHAT
IS IT?
OH, IS
THERE
SOMETHING
EMBARR-
ASSING
YOU'RE
HIDING
DOWN
HERE?

AH! N-
NO...

IT WAS
HIDDEN
BECAUSE
I HOPED
THAT THEY
WOULD NO
LONGER BE
NEEDED.



POOF

I'VE HAD
ENOUGH.
LET'S GET
OUT OF
HERE.
HIRUKO.

OH, HE'S
FANTASIZING
AGAIN!

One is for
father and
two is for...

There
were
fun
times...

YES,
YOU'RE
RIGHT!
SO DON'T
EVEN
THINK
ABOUT
GOING
DOWN
THERE!

THE FIFTY- FIRST NIGHT: FLOW



ARE YOU
KURU? IF
YOU NEED
HELP WITH A
NIGHTMARE,
THEN YOU
SHOULD GO
TO THE GUY
AT THE
SILVER STAR
TEA HOUSE.
HE'S MUCH
MORE
SYMPATHETIC
THAN I AM.



ARE YOU
THE BAKU,
TSUKISHIRO?
THANK YOU
FOR COMING.



?

CLATTER

IN THAT
CASE, I WAS
RIGHT TO
ASK YOU.
I WANT TO
TAKE A
LOOK AT
THIS GIRL.





SHE HAS
TUBERCULOSIS
AND IS IN
QUARANTINE,
SO I'M THE
ONLY PERSON
WHO LOOKS
AFTER HER
NOW...

SHE'S MY
YOUNGER
SISTER,
DAI.



YES...
WHILE I WAS
LOOKING
AFTER HER,
I CAUGHT
IT TOO...

ARE YOU
ALSO...?

IN HER SLEEP, SHE
KEEPS MUMBLING
"I WANT TO GO
BACK TO WHEN
I WAS HEALTHY."

SHE'S
GIVEN UP
ALL HOPE
FOR THE
FUTURE
AND HAS
NIGHTMARES
EVERY
NIGHT.

BUT MY
SISTER
DOESN'T
HAVE TOO
MUCH
LONGER...
SHE
KNOWS
THAT.

THAT'S WHY
I'VE BEEN
TELLING HER
STORIES.

POOR
IKU...

SHE'S
PROBABLY
SUFFERING
FROM HER
DISEASE
EVEN
IN HER
DREAMS.

YEAH, YEAH.
SO WHAT'S
THE DREAM?

BUT
THEY'VE
STARTED
TO HAVE
AN EFFECT
ON HER
DREAMS...

EVERY NIGHT
I LIE BESIDE
HER AND TELL
HER STORIES
THAT I MAKE UP.
I CONTINUE
EVEN AFTER
SHE'S FALLEN
ASLEEP.



BUT WHEN SHE WAKES UP, SHE SEEMS EVEN MORE MISERABLE.

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING MISSING. WHAT IS SHE SEEKING FROM THIS DREAM?

I WANT YOU TO FIND OUT.



WELL, I SUPPOSE...



IN CONTRAST, IKU GETS BETTER.

IN THE DREAM THERE IS A FISH WITH IKU. THE FISH GETS SICK INSTEAD OF HER AND GETS WEAKER EVERY NIGHT.



AT LEAST IN HER DREAMS, I WANT HER TO HAVE A FUTURE AND BE HAPPY.



WHEN I'M DONE, YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU KNOW.

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO FORGET OUR "PROMISE," ARE YOU?



SLEEP
NOW
...
LEAVE
THIS
WORLD
BEHIND.





YES, THIS
IS THE
DREAM
KURU MADE
FOR ME.
HE MAKES
THIS FISH
GET WEAKER
IN MY PLACE.
I WONDER
WHAT WILL
HAPPEN TO
IT TONIGHT.



HEY,
YOU'RE
STANDING
UP!

DECAYING
GILLS,
MEAT AND
MOLARS...



SLOSH

LISTEN.
MY BROTHER
IS TELLING
ANOTHER
BEDTIME
STORY, SO
THE FISH IS
CHANGING
ACCORDINGLY

...





HEE
HEE

...



IT'S GOING
TO DIE SOON.
THEN I'LL BE
COMPLETELY
RELEASED
FROM
DEATH.



HOW
DO
YOU
FEEL?

THERE MUST BE
SOMETHING MISSING

WHAT IS SHE SEEKING
FROM THE OCEAN?



I DON'T
KNOW...



THE FISH
IS DEAD...
AT LAST
I'LL...
HA HA HA!



IKU
LAUGHS.



HA...
HA
HA!

SHE'S
LAUGHING...?



SO SHE UNDERSTANDS THAT.

NO MATTER WHAT, I CAN'T ESCAPE DEATH... THIS IS UNBEARABLE!



HA HA... NO, THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE.

STOP IT, KURU... I CAN'T LAUGH.

THIS BRIEF RESPITE FROM HER ILLNESS IS JUST MAKING HER FEEL THE PAIN OF REALITY EVEN MORE.



IF YOU'RE GOING TO SHOW ME A DREAM... HA HA.



THEN SHOW ME WHEN I WASN'T SICK.



BACK TO WHEN I WAS HEALTHY!



IT REMINDS ME...



...OF HIM DROWNING IN HIS OWN NIGHTMARE.

OF CHITOSE



**TURN
BACK
TIME!**



THE FISH
...DIED IN
AT LAST TA
...LIT
WAN AH AH

THE
WATERFALL
IS FLOWING
BACKWARDS.

SHE
REJECTED
KURU'S
STORY.



THE
DREAM
IS GOING
BACK-
WARDS.



UXT
JHQUA

!!



HA
HA!

WHAT DID
KURU SAY
BEFORE?
IT COULDN'T
BE—





UGH...
"BEHIND ARE
STAKES"...
WE'RE
BEHIND THE
WATERFALL.

THE
SWORDS
SAID
BACK-
WARDS
HAVE
FORMED A
DIFFERENT
MEANING.

SPURRY

IKU'S DREAM WAS KURU'S CREATION IN THE FIRST PLACE, SO SHE CAN'T CONTROL IT. ALL SHE CAN DO IS REVERSE THE ORIGINAL... WHAT A PAIN.

WOLVES... MEAT AND
GILLS,
DECAYING



I
THOUGHT
YOUR
CHOICE OF
WORDS
WAS
ODD...

NOW IT MEANS,
"I'M GOING TO
TRAP THE BAKU
IN THE NETHER
WORLD."



NO MATTER
WHAT DREAM
YOU SHOWED
YOUR SISTER,
IT WASN'T
GOING TO HELP
HER. SO YOU
DECIDED TO
TRAP ME HERE
SO I WOULD
ACCOMPANY
HER TO THE
OTHER SIDE.

KIRU,
YOU WERE
PLANNING
THIS FROM
THE VERY
BEGINNING,
WEREN'T
YOU?



GRIP

WHICH
MEANS
AFTER
THIS...



IKU
WILL BE
DREAMING
WHEN
SHE DIES.

YES

COUGH...



BUT IF
SHE'S
WITH YOU,
AT LEAST
SHE
WON'T BE
LONELY...



I WON'T
LET YOU
DIE BY
YOURSELF.

GOODBYE, IKU...



HUH?

...



THAT'S
STRANGE...
THE DREAMER
IS DEAD BUT
THE DREAM
CAN STILL
EXIST?



I'M SORRY
FOR YOU, BUT
YOU'LL BE LIKE
THAT FOREVER
NOW.

!!



SHE'S
ALREADY
DEAD.

IKU,
WAKE
UP!



ARE YOU
JOKING?!
I CAN'T DIE,
SO I'LL STAY
TRAPPED
LIKE THIS
FOREVER!

HE...
HELP
ME!



YOU DIDN'T
CONSIDER THE
CONSEQUENCES,
DID YOU?



HA HA!
DON'T
YOU
GET IT?



ORIGINAL
FORM...
WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?



THIS DREAM
CENTERED
AROUND
HER. NOW
THAT SHE'S
PASSED ON,
THE DREAM
WILL REVERT
BACK TO ITS
ORIGINAL
FORM.

THIS IS YOUR
NIGHTMARE.
YOU CREATED IT.

THAT'S RIGHT.
THE PERSON
I PUT TO SLEEP
WASN'T IKU,
IT WAS *YOU*.

CALM
DOWN
AND
TAKE
A
GOOD
LOOK.

TH-
THAT'S
ME!



DO YOU
GET IT NOW?
IT WAS YOUR
DREAM THE
WHOLE TIME.

HA HA!
BUT I HAVE
NO INTENTION
OF GOING
WITH HER.



I FIGURED
IT OUT AND
LEFT THE
DREAM.

YOU
THOUGHT
YOU WERE
MANIPULATING
YOUR SISTER'S
DREAM AS YOU
USUALLY DO
IN REAL LIFE.
BUT YOU ONLY
KILLED HER IN
YOUR DREAM.

AND TAKING
PITY ON HER
LONELY DEATH,
YOU GAVE HER
SOMEONE TO
TAKE WITH HER.

THEN...
THAT MEANS
TSUKISHIRO
WENT INTO
MY DREAM,
WHERE I
WAS CREATING
MY SISTER'S
DREAM?
AND NOW
THAT MY
SISTER AND
HER DREAM
ARE GONE,
MY DREAM
IS THE ONLY
ONE LEFT?
BUT...

THIS
DREAM
NEEDS
SOMEONE
TO GO
WITH IKU
TO THE
OTHER
SIDE.





I'VE
SWITCHED
PLACES
WITH
TSUKI-
SHIRO!

PLEASE
HELP ME!

AND SINCE
I'M NOT THERE
ANYMORE,
THE DREAM HAS
REVERTED
BACK TO YOU,
ITS OWNER.



PLEASE!
HELP ME!

I CAN'T
BE LEFT
LIKE
THIS...



HEH
HEH
...

IF I
WANTED
TO, I
COULD
EAT THE
DREAM.



PLEASE!



WELL, SERVES
YOU RIGHT. AFTER
ALL, THAT WAS
WHAT YOU WERE
PLANNING FOR ME.

Please!



BUT IT'S
NICE TO
LOOK AT,
EH?



DON'T
WORRY.
NOW THAT
YOU'RE
AWAKE,
IT'S NOT
CONNECTED
TO YOU.

IS...
IS THAT MY
NIGHTMARE...? THEN...







BUT...
AS LONG AS
I CAN STILL
MOVE, I'LL
KEEP LOOKING
AFTER HER.



I LOVE YOU,
AND YET
I DESPISE
YOU.



SO
I'LL
TELL
YOU.

BUT I
SUPPOSE
I STILL
OWE
YOU MY
THINGS.
YOU
STOPPED
ME FROM
KILLING
MY
SISTER.



OH YES,
ABOUT
OUR
PROMISE...
BUT YOU
IGNORED
WHAT I
ASKED
YOU TO
DO.

NOW
ABOUT
THAT...

UWA...

I'LL TELL YOU WHERE YOU CAN FIND AN ACQUAINTANCE OF MINE—
SOMEONE WHO KNOWS KUROSU.



THE FIFTY- SECOND NIGHT: THE INN



100% 850 1484



100% 800% ENTER THE INN





MY DEAR
FRIEND SENSU!
I HAD HEARD
THAT YOU TOOK
OVER YOUR
FAMILY INN...
ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT?
I GOT A LETTER
FROM YOUR
LITTLE SISTER
ASKING ME
TO CHECK
ON YOU.
SHE WAS
WORRIED
ABOUT YOU.



NO, THAT'S
CHYO.
I'M JUST
LOOKING
AFTER HER.

HEY!
IS THAT
YOUR
KID?!



WOW!
SO YOU'RE
THE OWNER
OF AN INN
NOW...

Princess

IT'S BEEN
SO LONG!
I HAVEN'T
SEEN YOU
SINCE
GRADUATION,
RIGHT?

YOU'LL BE
STAYING
HERE,
RIGHT?
THIS
IS MY
ROOM AND
TO THE
RIGHT
IS THE
BATH...

入浴不可

THIS INN
HAS BEEN
PASSED
DOWN IN MY
FAMILY FOR
GENERATIONS,
SO I HAVE TO
TAKE GOOD
CARE OF IT.

I THINK
YOU'D BE
GREAT
AT IT.

WHAT A
STRANGE
LAYOUT.

SIGN: DON'T ENTER THE BATH

BECAUSE
THERE'S
SOMETHING
THERE...
A GHOST...



I PUT
OUT
BATHING
TUBS.

入浴不可

...BUT
YOU
CAN'T
USE IT
AT THE
MO-
MENT.

WHY?

ARGHHH!
I WAS SO
LOOKING
FORWARD
TO IT!
WHY?!

EVER
SINCE
ANY
GUESTS
WHO
STAYED
IN A
PARTICULAR
ROOM
WOULD
HAVE
NIGHT-
MARES.

WE
HAD TO
SHUTTER
THE INN
AT ONE
POINT
BECAUSE
OF THE
SCANDAL.

ALL THAT
REMAINED
OF HER
WERE HER
SLIPPERS
BY THE
BATH.

THREE
YEARS AGO,
A YOUNG
WOMAN
SUDDENLY
DISAPPEARED
HERE.

AND NOW
HER GHOST
APPEARS IN
PEOPLE'S
DREAMS...

SHE
MUST
HAVE
BEEN
KILLED.



THEY
WOULD
RUN OUT
OF THE
ROOM
SCREAMING,
"THE
WOMAN...!
SHE...!"

WH-
WHICH
ROOM
IS IT?



CLANG



THIS
ONE.

!!

THANK YOU
SO MUCH!
IT'S BEEN
DRIVING OUR
CUSTOMERS
AWAY.

ARE YOU
WILLING
TO BE THE
DREAMER
SO I CAN GO
IN AND FIND
OUT WHY THE
GHOST IS
DOING THIS?
IF SO,
IT MIGHT
BE FUN.

YOU
SIMPLETON...
I'M NOT A
SPIRIT
MEDIUM.

UH,
RIGHT...
LEAVE IT
TO US!

FLOP

THE LETTER
MENTIONED
SOMETHING
ABOUT NIGHT-
MARES, SO I
BROUGHT
A BAKU...

YOU ALWAYS
USED TO
SAY STUFF
LIKE THAT.
YOU HAVEN'T
CHANGED
AT ALL.

HA HA.
DO WHAT
YOU WILL,
JUST DON'T
GO NEAR
THE BATH.

THERE ARE
SPIRITS THAT
RESIDE IN
OBJECTS THAT
HAVE BEEN
USED FOR A
LONG TIME.
I THINK IT'S
THE SAME
WITH HOUSES,
SO I WANT
TO PRESERVE
THINGS THE
WAY THEY ARE.

ANYWAY,
WHAT'S
WITH
THAT
STAIN?
IT'S
CREEPING
ME OUT.
WHY
DON'T
YOU
CHANGE
THE
SCREEN
PAPER?

GROWL



AT THIS
RATE THE
GHOST
WILL...



HEY,
YOU'RE NOT
MAKING ME
SEE THE
NIGHTMARE
ALL BY
MYSELF,
ARE YOU?

THIS IS
BAD...



GHEESH!
AND HIRUKO
IS ALREADY
ASLEEP...

WHAT'S
WITH HIM?
HE DIDN'T
EVEN
GIVE US
DINNER.

HEY,
WAKE UP.
I'M SLEEPY
TOO.

PLEASE FIND MY MOTHER...



OH, THAT
WAS CLOSE.
I ALMOST
FELL ASLEEP.



HUH?
A CHILD'S
VOICE...

WAS I
IMAGINING
IT?



WHO'S
THAT
?!



COME ON,
WAKE UP!
HIRUKO!



THEY
NEVER
FOUND
HER
BODY.



MY YOUNG MOTHER
DISAPPEARED...
SHE MUST
HAVE BEEN
KILLED...

PLEASE
FIND MY
MOTHER...



COULD
IT BE,
THAT
BEHIND
HERE...





...SHE
WAS
BEATEN?

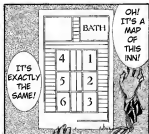


THEY'RE ON
THE OTHER
SIDE OF THE
SCREEN...
IT'S SHOWING
THROUGH
BECAUSE OF
THE LIGHT.



IS
THIS
A DIA-
GRAM?

WHERE
DID
I--?

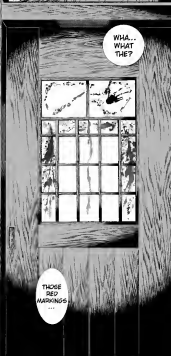


IT'S
EXACTLY
THE
SAME!

OH!
IT'S A
MAP
OF
THIS
INN!



WHA...
WHAT
THE?



THOSE
RED
MARKINGS
...



RIP



SIGN: DON'T ENTER THE BATH







LIGH...

AW!

WHAT
IS
THIS?!

AAAAAGHH!

MY LEGS...
MY LEGS!
S-SOME-
BODY...
HELP ME!

MY
BODY IS
MELTING
...!

THIS
ISN'T
WATER!

FSS



A A A A GH!!



HER BODY
MELTED
IN THE
BATH...!

IT'S
JUST A
DREAM.

THE
WOMAN...!
SHE...!



OH YEAH,
SO WHAT'S
IN HERE?

OH...
A WOMAN
APPEARED
IN THE
MIRROR
AND WAS
POINTING
AT THE
CLOSET...
SO I...



THIS WAS
HOLDING
IT SHUT.

CLASH



CLATTER



AS SOON
AS YOU
WENT TO
SLEEP,
I ENTERED
YOUR DREAM
AND WAS
OBSERVING
IT.

SENSHI'S
STORY
WAS
TRUE.









I DIDN'T
JUST
IGNORE IT.
I WAS
PRESERVING
IT. IT'S
MY DUTY
TO KEEP
THINGS
THE WAY
THEY ARE.

DON'T
TELL ME
YOU DID
THIS ON
PURPOSE!

WHY
DIDN'T
YOU SAY
ANYTHING?
WHY
WOULD
YOU
LEAVE
IT LIKE
THIS?!



WHAT
COULD
BE MORE
IMPORTANT
THAN
HUMAN
LIFE?!

BY THE
WAY...

WH-
WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?!
SOMEONE
DIED
BECAUSE
OF THAT!



IT'S NO GOOD...
HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND.



YOU
NEED TO
BE MORE
CAREFUL
WITH THE
DOORS HERE.
YOU MIGHT
DAMAGE THE
BUILDING.



SENSHI WE
RESOLVED
THE GHOST
PROBLEM.
IF YOU WANT
TO MAKE
SURE SLEEP
IN THE ROOM
YOURSELF...

GOODBYE...





HEH HEH.
THERE'S
NO POINT IN
REGRETTING
ANYTHING.
HE'S FALLEN
INTO A
NIGHTMARE.
HE'LL NEVER
WAKE UP
FROM.



SOME
FRIEND
I AM...

IN REALITY,
NOTHING WAS
RESOLVED...



DON'T TELL
ME THIS IS
RIDICULOUS,
BUT...



I GAVE
UP ON
SENSHI...

CHYO IS PROBABLY SENSEI'S DAUGHTER, SO THE GHOST IS ACTUALLY HIS WIFE.



"THE
STAIN
IS
WHERE
THE
BATH
IS..."

ONE
WAS
A
HINT
OF
HOW
SHE
WOULD
DIE.

"THIS
ISN'T
WATER!
MY BODY
IS
MELTING



THE MARKS
SHE MADE
WITH HER
BLOOD
ACTUALLY
EXPLAIN
EVERYTHING.

THREE
YEARS AGO
SHE WAS
TRAPPED
IN THAT INN
TO SAVE
HER CHILD.
SHE
PROBABLY
HID IN THE
CLOSET
WHEN SHE
GAVE
BIRTH...



IT WAS
ALL BECAUSE
HE LOVED
THE INN
SO MUCH.

THE LOVE
FOR THIS INN
THROUGHOUT THE
GENERATIONS
GAVE BIRTH TO
SOMETHING...

THIS IS
RIDICULOUS!

DO YOU
UNDERSTAND
NOW?



ONE
WAS
A
HINT
OF
WHY
SHE
WOULD
DIE.

"...SO
I WANT
TO PRE-
SERVE
THINGS
THE
WAY
THEY
ARE."



"THERE
ARE
SPIRITS
THAT
RESIDE IN
OBJECTS
THAT HAVE
BEEN USED
FOR A LONG
TIME.
I THINK
IT'S THE
SAME WITH
HOUSES..."



IT IS
REFERRING
TO THIS INN,
WHICH HAS
BECOME
A LIVING
THING.

THE
LAST
WAS
A
HINT
OF
THE
ROOT
OF
THE
EVIL.

IT BREATHES,
HAS ORGANS,
AND EVEN HAS
STOMACH ACID.
YES, SHE...

IT'S JUST
WHAT IT
LOOKS LIKE—
A PERSON
PAINTED
IN BLOOD...
THAT REPRE-
SENTS A RED
HOUSE.



SHE WAS
DEVoured
BY THE INN.

... WAS
DEVoured
IN THE
BATH.

WHILE SENSU ADORRED THIS OLD INN THE WAY IT WAS,
HIS WIFE PROBABLY SUGGESTED THAT THEY RENOVATE IT.

IN ORDER TO PREVENT THAT, THE INN...

NO, IF HE SHOULD EVER BETRAY THE INN, HE AND HIS DAUGHTER WILL MEET THEIR END LIKE HIS WIFE... HE CAN NEVER GIVE UP THE INN, SO HE WILL SUFFER FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE IN THAT BODY...



HA...
HA HA HA!
AS OWNER OF THE INN,
HE'S LIVED
INSIDE THE
BODY FOR
SO LONG
THAT HE'S
NOW A
PART OF
THE INN.



HE DOESN'T THINK
IT ODD THAT HE
LOVES THE INN
MORE THAN PEOPLE.
HE EVEN TREATS
HIS OWN DAUGHTER
LIKE A STRANGER.



HRIKO
...

A NIGHTMARE HE'LL NEVER
WAKE UP FROM...

THAT
WAS
ONE
OF THE
THINGS
I LIKED
ABOUT
HIM.

HE WAS VERY
CONSIDERATE
AND WOULD
ALWAYS LOOK
AFTER ME AND
EVERYONE ELSE.

IT'S TRUE
HE ALWAYS
TOOK GOOD
CARE OF HIS
THINGS.



WILL HE
EVER SNAP
OUT OF IT?

SO...
WILL SENSHI
BE LIKE THAT
FOREVER?



ONLY HE CAN ANSWER THAT.
HOWEVER, FOR THE THREE YEARS HE'S BEEN LIVING THAT
STRANGE LIFE, HE HAS CARED FOR HIS DAUGHTER.
IF HE HAD LOST ALL SENSE OF REASON...



THAT
GIRL
WOULD
HAVE
BEEN
LONG
DEAD!

THE FIFTY- THIRD NIGHT: CHANT





AT NIGHT,
IF WE GO
AROUND
CHANTING
WE CAN
GET CANDY!

Don
WE'VE
COME
FROM...
SO PLEASE
COME...

THAT'S
OSSHABURS!



THAT'S
RIGHT!
TEN YEARS
AGO, WHEN
I CAME HERE
FROM TOKYO
FOR A SHORT
STAY, I
REMEMBER
DOING THAT
WITH MY
FRIENDS.
BUT NOW
I CAN'T
RECALL...



I TOLD YOU NOT
TO GET SO CLOSE
TO THE SEA!
THE WAVES ARE
ROUGH HERE!



OH, YOU'RE
NOT FROM
AROUND HERE?
IT'S A CHANT,
IT MEANS
"FIRST NIGHT."

UHM...
WHAT DOES
"OSSHABURS"
MEAN?

HEH,
I KNEW
THAT!



SOMETHING
HAPPENED
HERE.

I NEED
TO FIND
OUT
WHAT.



WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?

I FELT A
SUDDEN
CHILL...

WE'VE COME FROM THE HOME OF SO-AND-SO,
SO PLEASE COME TO THE FIRST NIGHT!

WE ARE
MESSENGERS
FROM THE HOME
OF THE DECEASED.
PLEASE COME PAY
YOUR RESPECTS ON
THIS FIRST NIGHT
OF THE FUNERAL.
THE PRIESTS HAVE
ARRIVED TO OFFER
THEIR PRAYERS,
SO PLEASE COME
POSTHASTE
TO PAY YOUR
RESPECTS.

THE PRIESTS ARE THERE,
SO PLEASE COME POSTHASTE!

SO MY
DREAM
IS OF A
WAKE...
BUT
WHO'S?!

let's go
home

YOUR
DREAM?

...
MEANS
THAT
SOME-
ONE
HAS
DIED.

THE CHILDREN
DO IT FOR THE
TREAT, SO THEY
RUN AROUND LIKE
IT'S FOR PLAY.
BUT, THIS CHANT...

IT'S DONE ON
THE FIRST NIGHT
AFTER SOMEONE
IS CREMATED.
LIKE A WAKE,
THE PRIESTS
PERFORM RITES
AND OFFER UP
THEIR PRAYERS.
THE FAMILY
INFORMS THE
OTHER VILLAGERS
BY SENDING THE
CHILDREN AROUND
TO ANNOUNCE IT
WITH THIS CHANT.



I
WONDER
...

A FRAGMENTED
MEMORY FROM
TEN YEARS AGO...
THE LOST DREAM
TRYING TO PIECE
IT TOGETHER?



YOU DID THE
CHANT TEN
YEARS AGO.
ARE YOU STILL
DREAMING
ABOUT THAT
TIME?

EVERY
YEAR
AROUND
THIS TIME
OF YEAR I
HAVE THE
SAME DREAM.
IT'S ABOUT
THE TIME
I SPENT
HERE.

SO THAT'S
WHAT THOSE
WORDS MEANT!
I WISH I'D
NEVER COME
HERE TO
FIND OUT!



YOU'RE
IN LUCK.
ARE YOU
HUNGRY,
HIRUKO?

HUH?
SURE.

WHAT?
IS HE HIRUKO
THE BAKU...?



IN EXCHANGE
FOR YOUR
NIGHTMARE, I
WILL INVESTIGATE
YOUR DREAM.



I'M USUALLY
JUST RUNNING
AROUND IN
THE DREAM,
BUT NOW THAT
I KNOW IT'S
A WAKE...
I'M SURE TO
GO THERE!

I'M
SCARED...
WHY AM I
SHAKING?!



SLEEP
NOW...
LEAVE
THIS
WORLD
BEHIND.







WE ALL
SHOUTED
SO LOUDLY
BECAUSE
WE WERE
LOOKING
FORWARD
TO THE
CANDY.



SO PLEASE COME POSTHASTE!





SHE'S
SHAKING
AGAIN.

IT'S
DANGEROUS,
SO DON'T GET
TOO CLOSE
TO THE SEA!



TH-THIS
HOUSE...



BUT DON'T
GO BY THE
BEACH!

DO A
GOOD
JOB.
ONE
MORE
TIME
AROUND
AND
YOU'LL
GET
YOUR
TREAT.



IF
SOMETHING
HAPPENS...
YOU MUST
HELP ME,
HIRUKO.

SHE WON'T STOP.



IT'S
NOW...



A
FRAGMENTED
MEMORY IS
SLEEPING.



THERE'S
A CORPSE
LYING
BACK
THERE.

ZSSHH~





IF I GO INTO
THE SEA WHEN
IT'S LIKE THIS,
I'LL DROWN!
THE ADULTS
TOLD US TO
NOT EVEN GO
NEAR IT!

GO
GET IT
FOR ME.
MY MOM
WILL BE
MAD IF
I LOSE
THAT.



DIDN'T YOU
SAY THAT IF
I WAS IN
TROUBLE,
YOU'D HELP
ME?!

I THOUGHT
YOU SAID YOU
WERE MY
BEST FRIEND,
MITSUGI!



3-
JUST A
LITTLE
FURTHER.



PLEASE!
C'MON!







WE'VE COME FROM THE HOME OF YOHADO, SO PLEASE COME TO THE FIRST NIGHT.

御宿

THE PRIESTS ARE THERE, SO PLEASE COME POSTHASTE!

WHY
ARE YOU
HERE?!

YOU DIED!
I KILLED
YOU!!

I REMEMBER.
THE CHANT THAT
NIGHT WAS FOR
HIS FAMILY.

THAT
WAS
MITSURU'S
LAST
NAME.

I WAS
SCARED.

THAT'S
WHY...

I SUPPRESSED
MY MEMORY
OF THAT DAY.
BUT I NEVER
FORGOT IT.

SO WHY
...

BECAUSE
HE DIED.

YOU CONTINUED TO EXIST IN A FORM THAT ONLY I COULD SEE.

THAT
MEANS
THAT
YOU'RE
DEAD!!

LISTEN,
IT'S
YOUR
NAME.

WE'VE COME FROM THE HOME OF YONADO, SO PLEASE COME TO THE FIRST NIGHTS

THE PRIESTS ARE THERE, SO PLEASE COME POSTHASTE

DON'T
FOLLOW ME
ANYMORE...
PLEASE,
FORGIVE
ME...

PLEASE
GO AWAY
AND STOP
HAUNTING
ME!

PLEASE
...

TIME TO
WAKE UP.



I SHOULDED
THE CHANT
IN ORDER TO
ERASE MY
MEMORY
OF YOU .
I'M SORRY,
MITSUGI...
I KILLED YOU
ALL OVER
AGAIN...



OR RATHER,
THAT YOU
HAVEN'T
FORGIVEN
YOURSELF
YET...

BUT HE
STILL DIDN'T
DISAPPEAR.
IT'S BECAUSE
YOU STILL HAVE
REGRETS
AND WANT
FORGIVENESS.



THAT'S
ALL RIGHT.
IF THAT
IS MY
ATONE-
MENT...

THEN I'LL
JUST HAVE
TO CONTINUE
SUFFERING IN
MY DREAMS.



"SO PLEASE COME POSTHASTE."



MTSUGHI?
BUT YOU'RE
DEAD...



HOW?!
TEN YEARS
AGO YOU—

BUT WHY
IS HE
ALL
GROWN
UP?

OH,
THAT'S
RIGHT.
ONLY
I CAN
SEE
HIM.





BECAUSE
IT WAS
ALL YOUR
FAULT.

I TRIED
SO HARD
TO FORGET
ABOUT
THAT DAY...
BUT I
COULDN'T.

AH, HOW
BEAUTIFUL
YOU'VE
BECOME,
TSUYAKO.
I NEVER
FORGOT
ABOUT YOU.



YOU SAID YOU
WANTED TO SEE
A MIRAGE. IF YOU
HADN'T BEEN SO
STUBBORN ABOUT
IT, NONE OF THIS
WOULD HAVE
HAPPENED.



THAT
DAY,
YOU...



TEN
YEARS
AGO
I...

YES...
MY
FAULT...



EVEN THOUGH
THE ADULTS
ALWAYS TOLD
US TO STAY
AWAY FROM THE
ROUGH SEA...
AND I WARNED
YOU THAT WE'D
GET IN TROUBLE,
ESPECIALLY
WITH HIM...



BUT
THEN HE
CAME.

THAT'S WHY YOU DROWNED
WHILE I STOOD BY
DOING NOTHING.

THAT'S WHY ALL THIS...



ANTSLIGH
WENT IN
TO GET
MY HAT...
HELP HIM...



I TOLD
YOU
NOT
TO GO
NEAR
THE
SEA!



AFTER MY
OLDER
BROTHER
SAVED ME,
HE WENT
BACK FOR
YOUR HAT.

HE WAS
SWALLOWED
UP BY THE
WAVES...

WE WERE
CHILDREN,
MORE
SCARED
ABOUT
GETTING IN
TROUBLE
THAN SAD
ABOUT MY
BROTHER'S
DEATH,
SO...





I WAS THERE WITH YOU.

OF COURSE. 'CAUSE HE WAS MY BROTHER.



BUT? THAT NIGHT WE WERE SHOUTING THE FUNERAL CHANT FOR YOUR FAMILY...

MY HEAD FEELS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BREAK.

S-SO THERE WAS SOMEONE IN HIRUKO'S PLACE THAT SAVED HIM?



BECAUSE OF THAT, YOU TRULY THOUGHT I WAS THE ONE WHO HAD DIED. BUT, TSUYAKO...

RIGHT... YOU HAD DONE AS I TOLD YOU—YOU ERASED ANY MEMORY OF MY BROTHER BEING THERE.



BUT YOU SHOUTED SO FRANTICALLY, LIKE YOU WERE SEEING A GHOST...



...THE PERSON YOU KILLED WAS MY BROTHER.



GOT IT, TSUYAKO?

...AND GO FORTH AND LIVE YOUR LIFE. THAT'D BE BEST.

YOU SHOULD KEEP THAT TO YOURSELF...



I NEED
TO START
ANEW...
FROM
HERE ON
OUT...

THAT'S
RIGHT.
I MUST
ACCEPT
THE TRUTH
AND LIVE,
IN HONOR
OF HIS
BROTHER
TOO, TO
ATONE FOR
MY SIN.



WHAT'S
THAT?



THE
PERSON
I REALLY
HAVE TO
ATONE
FOR...

THE
PERSON I
KILLED...

WE'VE
COME
FROM
THE
HOME
OF
YONABO



PLEASE
COME

ARE
THERE



POST-
HASTE



PLEASE COME POSTHASTE!!

PLEASE COME POSTHASTE!!

HE'S TRYING TO PULL ME IN AT THE SAME SPOT...

IF THAT IS YOUR WISH...

I MUST RESPOND...

OKAY.

COME POSTHASTE!!

THE FIFTY- FOURTH NIGHT: SCISSORS

SEBASTIAN
COLACE

MIZUKI!
♡
I'M
BACK!
♡

UNDER
COVER OF
DARK-
NESS

THEY
CAME
TO THE
SILVER
STAR
TEA
HOUSE



HA HA!
IT'S A
FAIR PRICE
FOR WHAT
I DO.

I LISTEN
TO EACH
CUSTOMER
DESCRIBE
THEIR LIFE,
THEIR
PERSONALITY
AND THEIR
THOUGHTS FOR
THE FUTURE.
AND BASED
ON THAT,
I CREATE
A UNIQUE
HAIRSTYLE
SUITED JUST
FOR THEM.



HE'S A
CUSTOMER
FOR HIRUKO.
HE'S THE
OWNER OF
KAWIYA HAIR
SALON.
YOU KNOW,
THAT POPULAR
SALON...

WH-
WHO ARE
YOU?
GET AWAY
FROM HER!
I'LL SHRED
YOU TO
PIECES!!

WHAT?!!
THAT PLACE
KNOWN FOR
THEIR RIDICU-
LOUSLY HIGH
PRICES?!





MANY ACTORS
AND OTHER
PROFESSIONALS
HAVE GONE ON
TO SUCCESS
WITH MY
HAIRCUTS.

FOR THOSE
CUSTOMERS WHO
HAVE TOILED FOR
YEARS AND HAVE
GIVEN UP ON THE
FUTURE, I CREATE
A HAIRSTYLE THAT
REFLECTS ALL
THEIR HARD WORK,
BOOSTING THEIR
CONFIDENCE.



TO
REPRESENT
HIS NIHILISTIC
LIFESTYLE,
IT WOULD BE
WHITE, AND I'D
LET IT GROW
REALLY
LONG TO
REPRESENT
HAVING NO
END IN SIGHT.

*What a
strange
hairstyle...*

OH REALLY? SO
WHAT WOULD
YOU DO TO
HIRUKO'S HAIR?
HE'S FORSAKEN
LIFE AND IS
GOING TO SPEND
ETERNITY CHASING
NIGHTMARES.



I'VE
NEVER
DONE A
BAKU.

AND I'D TIE IT
WITH A DARK-
COLORED BAND,
REPRESENTING
NIGHTMARES.
HEH! YOU
WOULDN'T
EVEN NEED
SCISSORS.



ANYWAY,
ABOUT MY
NIGHTMARE.
THE OTHER
DAY, A
FILTHY
WOMAN
BARGED
INTO MY
SHOP.

*He's
the ideal
Baku?!*



I SEE...
OH! THAT'S
EXACTLY LIKE
TSUKISHIRO!

Amazing!



FOR A MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN, HER HAIR WAS COMPLETELY WHITE. SHE WAS STRANGE, WITH AN UNSTEADY LOOK IN HER EYES, BUT I LISTENED TO HER STORY.

LOOK, THIS IS MY SON! I FINALLY FOUND HIM. PLEASE, I NEED YOU TO CUT MY HAIR...



THEN THE OTHER DAY WHEN I WAS AT MY DAUGHTER'S, I FOUND THIS PHOTO! I'M FINALLY GOING TO BE REUNITED WITH HIM...



WHEN MY SON WAS YOUNG, I WAS SO CAUGHT UP IN MYSELF THAT I NEGLECTED HIM, NEVER SHOWING HIM AFFECTION...

I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOU. THAT'S WHY I WANT YOU TO CUT MY HAIR...

BUT WHEN I THINK OF ALL THE TERRIBLE THINGS I DID AND HOW LONG IT'S BEEN SINCE WE'VE SEEN EACH OTHER, I'M SCARED. I DON'T HAVE THE HEART TO FACE HIM...

IN THE END, HE RAN AWAY FROM HOME. THAT MADE ME REALIZE THE ERROR OF MY WAYS, AND I'VE BEEN PERVENTLY SEARCHING FOR HIM EVER SINCE.



OH...
I...
UM...

I DO CHARGE A FEE FOR MY SERVICES...



BESIDES,
I DON'T
HAVE
ANYTHING
FOR
SUCH A
SELFISH
WOMAN!
GET OUT
OF HERE!!

I THOUGHT SO!
THIS ISN'T A PLACE
FOR A FILTHY OLD
HAG LIKE YOU!
WHAT DO YOU
THINK YOU CAN GET
WITHOUT ANY MONEY?!
BEEN SEARCHING
SO MUCH FOR YOUR
SON THAT YOU'VE
LOST YOUR COMMON
SENSE?

BUT EVER SINCE, SHE KEEPS COMING ROUND TO THE SALON.
SO MUCH THAT I'M SEEING HER IN MY DREAMS. SHE BEGS ME,
"CUT IT... CUT IT..." I CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE.



SHUT UP.
EVEN I
CAN'T CUT
THAT.



DON'T BE
SO STINGY!
IT'S JUST
A DREAM,
SO WHY
DON'T
YOU JUST
CUT IT?



IF I
WASN'T
HUNGRY,
I'D TURN
YOU
AWAY.



YOU
WANT TO
KNOW
WHY?
FINE, I
SUPPOSE
I COULD
ALLOW
YOU
INTO MY
DREAM.

YOU
CAN'T?



SLEEP
NOW...
LEAVE
THIS
WORLD
BEHIND.

HEY!
WHO DO
YOU THINK
YOU ARE,
TELLING
ME WHAT
TO DO?!

SHOW
SOME
RESPECT





DOES THIS
WOMAN COME
INTO YOUR
SHOP
SMOKING?

HUH? OF
COURSE NOT!
WHAT A
FOOLISH
QUESTION.



WHAT'S THIS?
HER SKIN IS
MORE YOUTHFUL
AND BEAUTIFUL
THAN WHAT
HE SAID.



OH!
THAT'S—!



AND
THIS?



THAT'S...
MY MOTHER'S
HAIRPIN.
MY MOTHER
HAD THE
SAME PAST
AS THAT
WOMAN.



HEY, THIS
ISN'T THE
BODY OF
A MIDDLE-
AGED
WOMAN.
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?



SHE SENT
MY SISTER
TO LIVE WITH
RELATIVES AND
NEGLECTED ME.

AFTER MY
FATHER DIED,
MY MOTHER WAS
A SHELL OF HER
FORMER SELF.
SHE SOLD OFF
OUR HOUSEHOLD
EFFECTS AND
SQUANDERED THE
MONEY. SHE WENT
TO WASTE.



OH, HOW
LOVELY!

IT WAS
ONLY A
MOMENT...



I
BOUGHT
A HAIRPIN
WITH
MONEY
I HAD
SAVED
UP, AND
PUT
IT IN
HER
HAIR.



SHE SMOKED
ALL DAY LONG
AND COULDN'T
CARE LESS
ABOUT HER
APPEARANCE,
ALLOWING
HER HAIR
TO GROW.



...BUT THE
BEAUTY SHE
POSSESSED
WHEN MY
FATHER WAS
ALIVE HAD
RETURNED.
BACK WHEN
ALL SHE
LIVED FOR
WAS TO
SUPPORT
MY FATHER.

II



THIS IS...

HEY! WHAT'S HAPPENING?! DO SOMETHING!



I WAS SO HAPPY... I WANTED HER TO BE LIKE THAT MORE, SO I GOT A JOB AT A BARBERSHOP I KNEW IN EXCHANGE FOR HER HAIR APPOINTMENTS.

BUT...



JUST CONTINUE!

WHAT-?!

KAMUYA, CONTINUE YOUR STORY.



I WAS LONELY... IN MY DESPERATION...

MOTHER... NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TRIED TO MAKE HER HAPPY, LIFE WITHOUT MY FATHER GAVE HER NO PURPOSE IN LIFE.



?!

AGH!

WHAT IS THIS?!



IF IT
WEREN'T
FOR YOU,
MY LIFE
WOULD
BE SO
MUCH
BETTER!



THEN,
SHE
SAID...



SHUT UP!
I NEED
THE MONEY
TO BUY
TOBACCO!!

YOU DON'T
NEED THIS
ANYMORE,
RIGHT?!
GIVE IT
BACK!



I DON'T
NEED
YOU.



YOU'RE
SUCH A
NUISANCE
...



...I STILL
BELIEVED
IN HER.



YANK



UNTIL
THAT
DAY

...



ACK!
HA
HA!

DESPITE
THAT...



I'M OF SOME
USE TO YOU,
RIGHT, MOM?
YOU KNOW HOW
MUCH I CARE,
RIGHT?

KAWAYA BARBER SHOP



THAT'S NOT
REALLY HER.
IF SHE GETS
HER HAIR DONE,
SHE'LL SMILE...

HMM,
WHAT
SHALL
I DO
TODAY?



I FEEL SO
MUCH BETTER!
LIKE A WEIGHT
HAS BEEN
LIFTED OFF MY
SHOULDERS!



I'LL DO
ANYTHING
FOR YOU...









SO WHAT
DO YOU
WANT
TO DO?



THAT HAIR
THAT IS
BINDING YOU
REPRESENTS
THE HATRED
YOU BEAR
TOWARDS
YOUR
MOTHER.

THE
SCISSORS
ARE BEING
MOVED
BY THAT
CUSTOMER'S
LONGING,
ALONG
WITH YOUR
MOTHER'S.



SHUT
UP!!

IT WILL
ALSO CUT
AWAY YOUR
ANGER AND
LET YOU
TAKE A STEP
TOWARDS
A HAPPIER
FUTURE.



IF YOU STEP
FORWARD AND
SIT IN THE CHAIR,
YOU CAN CUT
OFF THE HAIR.

BUT IF YOU
DO CUT IT,
IT MEANS YOU'RE
FORGIVING HER.
YOU'LL BE CUTTING
OFF HER "PAST"
SO SHE CAN FACE
HER SON AGAIN.



CUT
IT...

...AND
NOT EVER
KNOWING
WHAT MY
MOTHER
THOUGHT
SHE LEFT
BEHIND
AT THE
SHOP, I'LL
HAVE TO...

YOU THINK
I'M GOING
TO CUT
IT THEN?
IF I FORGIVE
HER, THEN
ALL THE PAIN
THAT I'VE
SUFFERED
SINCE THAT
DAY...

CUT
IT...



DO YOU
WANT TO
LIVE YOUR
LIFE FULL OF
ANIMOSITY?



SO YOU'D
RATHER NOT
MOVE AND
HAVE IT CUT
OFF YOUR
HEAD?



CUT
IT...

CUT
IT...



I WON'T
MOVE EVEN
IF MY BODY
IS CUT TO
BITS!!

SHUT UP!
WHY SHOULD
I FORGIVE
HER?! YOU
MUST BE
JOKING!





PLEASE, MAKE ME PRETTY. GIVE ME THE CONFIDENCE TO SEE MY SON AGAIN.

I WON'T CUT IT.



THANK YOU FOR AGREEING TO CUT IT.



THAT'S WHY I WON'T CUT IT.



I'M GOING TO CREATE A HAIRSTYLE BASED ON YOUR LIFE, PERSONALITY AND THOUGHTS FOR THE FUTURE.



YOUR LONG AND RAGGED HAIR REPRESENTS YOUR PAST LAZINESS AND ALL THE YEARS YOU WERE SEARCHING TIRELESSLY.

BUT YOUR WHITE HAIR, WHICH REPRESENTS YOUR TIME WITHOUT YOUR SON, I'LL DYE BLACK, TAKING YOU BACK TO A TIME WHEN HE WAS STILL IN YOUR LIFE.



HERE,
HAVE
THIS.



WHY?



WHY,
YOU
ASK?

...

PLEASE...

BECAUSE
I JUST
WANTED TO
SEE YOU
SMILE.

...BE
HAPPY...







MOTHER-
IN-LAW?!

I'VE
MISSED
YOU! DO
YOU KNOW
HOW LONG
I'VE BEEN
SEARCHING
FOR YOU?!

YES,
I'M YOUR
MOTHER!
YOU
REMEMBER
ME!



MOTHER, I'M
SO GLAD TO
SEE YOU AGAIN.
YOU HAVEN'T
CHANGED A BIT.
THAT HAIRPIN
REALLY SUITS
YOU.

THINGS
HAVE
GOTTEN
REALLY
BAD...
PLAY
ALONG,
IT MAY
ONLY
BE A
TEMPORARY
LAPSE...

THE
ONE WHO
DOESN'T
REMEMBER
IS HER. SHE
THINKS THAT
YOU'RE
HER SON,
NOT HER
SON-IN-
LAW. THIS
DELUSION
MUST
BE HER
ONLY WAY
TO COPE
WITH IT.

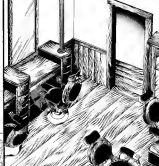
WELL,
NOW THAT
I LOOK
AT IT, IT
IS CUTE.
A HAIR-
DRESSER
GAVE IT
TO ME...



THAT
HAIR-
DRESSER
...

I...
FORGOT
...

THIS...



OF COURSE YOU COULDN'T.



BY CUTTING AWAY
HER PAST TO GIVE
HER THE STRENGTH
TO FACE HER SON,
YOU WOULD HAVE ERASED
HER MEMORIES OF YOU.
THEN SHE WOULD THINK
A COMPLETE STRANGER
WAS HER SON.
BUT IN THE DREAM,
YOU DID CHOOSE TO
CUT HER HAIR.

BECAUSE
SHE WAS
YOUR
MOTHER.



AFTER
THAT DAY
SHE DID
LOOK
FOR YOU.
BUT YOU
NEVER
SHOWED
YOURSELF
TO HER.



—WHETHER
THE THING
SHE FORGOT
IN THE STORE
THAT DAY WAS
THE HAIRPIN...
OR ME. THAT
DAY WAS THE
TIPPING POINT

YES...
SO I'LL
NEVER
KNOW...



MOTHER

...



THE
THING
YOU'RE
LOOKING
FOR...

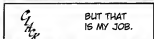


YOU
STAYED
IN THE
BACK OF
THE SHOP,
LEFT
BEHIND...



I'VE BEEN
A FOOL.
YOU CAN'T
TURN BACK
TIME FOR
AN AGING
WOMAN
BY DYING
HER HAIR.

I CAN'T TAKE
HER BACK
TO A DAY
WHEN SHE
REMEMBERS
MY FACE...



CHIEF

BUT THAT
IS MY JOB.



THE
THING
YOU
LOST

...

YOU'VE
COME TO
RETRIEVE IT.



THE
FIFTY-
FIFTH
NIGHT:
THE
ELEVATOR

SEPARATE
SOLACE

UNDER
COVER
OF DARK-
NESS

THEY
COME TO THE
SILVER STAR
TEA HOUSE





I'VE BEEN
HAVING DREAMS
ABOUT THE
ELEVATOR BOY,
TODOROKI.

MY PARENTS
OWN A
DEPARTMENT
STORE. ON
HOLIDAYS
THEY TAKE
ME THERE
WITH THEM.

BE QUIET...



THE
STORE
IS FIVE
STORIES
HIGH. MY
DREAM
ALWAYS
STARTS ON
THE
FIRST
FLOOR.

YES, SO
PLEASE
HELP ME.



I FEEL SO
SORRY FOR
HIM AND NOW
I'VE STARTED
TO SEE HIM IN
MY DREAMS.
I WANT TO GET
HIM OUT OF THE
ELEVATOR.

C'MON,
PLEASE
HEAR
ME OUT.
HE'S
ALWAYS
IN THE
ELEVATOR
AND CAN'T
LEAVE IT.



I-I'M NOT
DOING IT
BECAUSE I
WANT TO
RIDE IN THE
ELEVATOR!

UH-HUH.
SURE...

OH!
YOU'RE
GOING TO
HELP
HER?

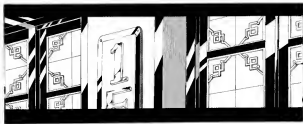


CAN'T
LEAVE THE
ELEVATOR?



Really?

SLEEP
NOW...
LEAVE
THIS
WORLD
BEHIND.





HA HA HA!
YOU LIKE
THAT A LOT
THESE DAYS.
IS THE
NOVELTY
STILL
EXCITING
FOR YOU?

NO, IT'S OKAY.
DON'T WORRY
ABOUT ME,
I'LL BE IN
THE ELEVATOR.
IT'S SO FUN
RIDING IT UP
AND DOWN!



SORRY
TO ALWAYS
BOTHER YOU,
TODOROKI.
PLEASE
KEEP AN
EYE ON URA.

MY MY!
SEEMS
URA'S
TAKEN
A LIKING
TO YOU.





WHICH FLOOR SHALL I TAKE YOU TO?



WHERE CAN I GO SO THAT YOU'LL GET OUT WITH ME?



I SEE. AND THERE'S QUITE AN AGE DIFFERENCE.

MY FATHER IS SO CUTE. HE MARRIED INTO MY MOTHER'S FAMILY, SO HE CAN'T EVER STAND UP TO HER.



IF YOU HAD MONEY, THEN YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORK!

THEN YOU'D BE FREE TO—



I HAVE NO FREEDOM.

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. THIS IS MY JOB.

BUT YOU CAN LEAVE WHEN YOUR JOB IS OVER, RIGHT?



THANK
YOU...

I'M
AFRAID
THAT CAN
NEVER
HAPPEN,
BUT...



I WANT
HIM TO
GET OUT
OF THE
ELEVATOR
WITH ME.
I WANT
TO GO
SEE THE
SEA...



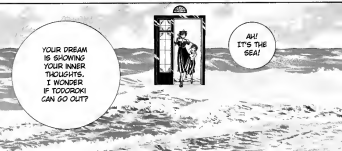
YOU
LIKE
HIM,
DON'T
YOU?

SEEMS
LIKE HE'S
BEEN
SWEET
ON YOU



GOING UP.

T I M I N G



YOUR DREAM
IS SHOWING
YOUR INNER
THOUGHTS.
I WONDER
IF TODOROKI
CAN GO OUT?

AH!
IT'S THE
SEA!



HMM, IT
DOESN'T
SEEM TO
WORK.
TODOROKI,
WHAT DO
YOU THINK?
WHY DO
YOU THINK
YOU CAN'T
LEAVE?

LET'S GO
TO THE SEA
TOGETHER!

COME
ON!
LET'S
GO!

I
ALWAYS
TRY,
BUT...



THEN
WE CAN
LEAVE
TOGETHER.

RIGHT!
YOU'LL NEED
MONEY TO
SUPPORT
YOURSELF!
IF IT'S ABOUT
MONEY, I'LL
ASK MY
MOTHER!

PROBABLY
BECAUSE
IF I LEAVE
HERE, THEN
THERE'LL BE
NOTHING
LEFT...



T I N G







IF ONLY SHE COULD STAY WITH TODOROKI FOREVER, I'D BE SO HAPPY.



OH! MISS...

WHAT IS THIS? I CAN'T FEEL ANY BODY HEAT.



BUT IT'S ACTUALLY ME.



WHAT?! THE STORE ONLY HAS FIVE FLOORS! WHY IS THERE A SIXTH? WH-WHAT IS GOING ON?!



OH, THE DIAL!



IN MY DREAM I KEPT WISHING THAT TODOROKI WOULD LEAVE WITH ME. SO I'LL SEE HOW IT ENDS IN REALITY...

THAT'S OKAY. THERE'S NO POINT IN SEEING THE FUTURE SINCE IT WILL COME TRUE TOMORROW.



IN OTHER WORDS, THE CONCLUSION MY FUTURE...

PERHAPS EVERYTHING WILL COME TOGETHER ON THE SIXTH FLOOR.

URA, YOUR DREAM STARTS ON THE FIRST FLOOR AND GOES UP IN ORDER, WITH EACH FLOOR REFLECTING SOMETHING INSIDE YOU.



THAT'S WHY
YOU SHOULD
COME TOMORROW!
IF YOU THINK
SOMETHING'S
GOING TO
HAPPEN TO ME,
PROTECT ME.

EVERYTHING
WAS NORMAL UP
THROUGH THE
THIRD FLOOR...
BUT AT THE
FOURTH, THINGS
STARTED TO GET
STRANGE. DON'T
YOU WONDER
WHAT THAT
INCIDENT WAS
ABOUT?

DON'T YOU
WONDER
ABOUT THIS
OTHER
URA?



WHAT A
PAIN!

IT WOULD BE
IRRESPONSIBLE
OF YOU TO
IGNORE YOUR
SUSPICIONS,
RIGHT? SO,
PLEASE COME!



THAT'S
WHY?



TIME TO
WAKE UP.









IT'S NOT ALL HIS FAULT. WE LEFT HER WITH HIM. IF THEY'RE STILL IN THE BUILDING, WE SHOULD CALL THE POLICE.

HOW CAN THIS BE, TODOROKI! YOU WERE WITH HER!



Y-YES...

SO THIS MAN SNATCHED HER IN FRONT OF ALL OF YOU



IF WE WANT URA BACK IT SAYS TO PREPARE AN AMOUNT OF MONEY EQUIVALENT TO WHAT SHE'S WORTH TO US AND HAVE TODOROKI TAKE IT TO THE TOP ALONE.



DON'T YOU CARE ABOUT URA?! IF YOU DO, THEN YOU SHOULD PROVE IT BY GETTING THE MONEY RIGHT NOW!

NO! IF WE DON'T DO AS THEY SAY, URA WILL BE IN DANGER! IT WOULD BE WISER TO DO WHAT HE WANTS, AND TAKE CARE OF IT IMMEDIATELY.



HUH?!

Since we're here, might as well get some credit for Ura



EVERY-THING IS A CULMINATION OF WHAT HAPPENED ON THE FOURTH FLOOR... WHATEVER WAS INSIDE THE GIRL'S MIND. LET'S GO HOME. WE DON'T NEED TO SEE ANYMORE.



Oh yes...
HOW HORRIBLE...

GENIUS...



MONEY EQUIVALENT TO HER WORTH, EH?



FINALLY!
I WAS FINALLY
ABLE TO GET SOME
MONEY OUT OF MY
STINGY WIFE!
DID YOU HIDE THE
PACKAGE UPSTAIRS
WHERE I TOLD YOU?
I'LL GO GRAB
IT WHEN THE
COAST IS CLEAR.

DON'T WORRY.
YOU'LL GET
10 PERCENT.
JUST TAKE
IT EASY RIGHT
NOW.



URA!

MOTHER!

TING



OH, URA!
I'M SO GLAD.
YOU MUST
HAVE BEEN
SO SCARED.

WAAH!
I WAS SO
SCARED!
B-BUT
TODOROKI...
SOB...
EXCHANGED
ME FOR THE
PACKAGE
AND SAVED
ME!



REALLY.
THANK
YOU FOR
YOUR
HELP.

THANK YOU
TODOROKI.
THANK YOU...



URA,
WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?

I'M FINE.
I'M GOING
TO SEE
TODOROKI
OFF!







IT WAS
HARD
WORK.

I WAS SO
WORRIED
ABOUT IT
THAT I
STARTED
TO DREAM
ABOUT IT.
I EVEN
WENT TO
THE SILVER
STAR TEA
HOUSE AND
PLAYED A
PART, SO
THAT THE
BAKU WOULD
COME WITH
ME.



RIGHT, THERE
WEREN'T
ANY OTHER
PASSENGERS
THEN...

THE BOY
AND GIRL
WHO WERE
IN THE
ELEVATOR
WITH US?



SIGH

MY MOTHER
KNOWS HOW
MUCH I CARE
FOR YOU AND
WOULD THINK
I WAS COVERING
FOR YOU,
SO WE NEEDED
SOME PEOPLE
WHO WEREN'T
INVOLVED.



HE'LL BEAR
IT IN SILENCE.
IF MOTHER
EVER
FOUND OUT,
SHE WOULD
LEAVE HIM.
HE WOULD
BE RUINED.



BUT I
WONDER
WHAT WILL
HAPPEN
WHEN HE
DOESN'T
FIND THE
PACKAGE.

I'LL SERVE
AS PROOF
FOR YOUR
FATHER. I'LL
SAY THAT
WHEN I
WENT TO
MAKE THE
EXCHANGE,
THERE WAS
ANOTHER
MAN THERE.



REALLY?



IF YOU WERE
GOING TO PULL IT
OFF, YOU AND MY
FATHER NEEDED
TO DO THAT MUCH.
OH WELL, THAT'S
WHAT'S SO CUTE
ABOUT YOU TWO.



YOU'RE
FREE NOW.
YOU CAN
LEAVE THE
ELEVATOR...



BUT NOW
THAT YOU
HAVE MONEY,
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO WORK
ANYMORE.

IT WILL BE
DIFFICULT
FOR YOU
TO STAY
HERE.



I...
I WANTED
YOU TO GO
TO THE SEA
WITH ME.

I'M FREE...?

DID IT SEEM AS IF I WEREN'T FREE?

I LIKE BEING AN ELEVATOR BOY.





HEE HEE...
THAT'S A
LOT OF
MONEY.
WHY DON'T
YOU RUN
AWAY
WITH IT?

THIS IS
YOURS,
MADAM.



WHAT I
WANT CAN'T
BE MEASURED
BY MONEY.

....!



EVER SINCE
I TOLD YOU
ABOUT YOUR
HUSBAND'S PLAN,
YOU'VE NOT
SAID A WORD.
YOU ENJOYED
WATCHING IT
PLAY OUT.

YOU
WERE
TESTING
ME,
RIGHT?



IF I
STAY
IN THE
ELEVATOR,
I CAN BE
SURE OF
SEEING
YOU...

...AND FOR
THAT MOMENT,
THAT ENCLOSURE
IS FULL OF SUCH
IRREPLACEABLE
SWEETNESS.



THAT'S RIGHT.
YET YOU
RETURNED THE
MONEY. YOUR
LOYALTY IS
APPRECIATED.

DON'T TALK
ABOUT IT LIKE
IT'S MERE
LOYALTY!



FROM THE
BOTTOM OF
MY HEART,
I THINK ONLY
OF YOU,
MADAM...



YOU DON'T
KNOW HOW
MUCH I LOOK
FORWARD TO
SEEING YOU
EVERY DAY IN
THE ELEVATOR.



AS LONG
AS YOU
POSSESS
MY HEART,
MY BODY IS
TRAPPED
IN THIS
ELEVATOR..

HA HA!
AS IF I WOULD
SACRIFICE THAT
FOR MONEY...

...AND I
CAN NEVER
BE FREE...

THE FIFTY- SIXTH NIGHT: HIFUMI & SHIGOROKU



SHIGOROKU HAPPY



SO, WHERE'S THIS HIRUKO GUY?





WHAT?!
THAT'S
ME!!

NO WAY,
YOUR?!

YOU'RE A
WOMAN?!

NO, ACTUALLY I'M
TO BE ENGAGED
TO SOMEONE IN
THE MISUMI FAMILY
TOMORROW. THEY
SAID I WOULD
REALLY LIKE
THE PERSON...

SH-
SHIGOROKU,
YOU TWO
LOOK VERY
MUCH ALIKE,
CONSIDERING
YOU'RE NOT
RELATED.
ARE YOU HERE
ABOUT A
NIGHTMARE?



STOP,
YOU'RE
MAKING
ME SICK.

SO THERE'RE
THREE MORE
THAT LOOK
LIKE THAT?!

ACTUALLY, MY NAME
SHOULD'VE BEEN NANAKO—
I'M THE SEVENTH OF
SEPTUPLETS. BUT THE
[FOURTH, FIFTH AND
SIXTH SONS DIED AT
BIRTH, SO I'VE BEEN
FORCED TO LIVE MY LIFE
FOR THEM AS WELL...

HI = 1, FU = 2, MI = 3, SHI = 4, GO = 5, ROKU = 6, NANA = 7



I'VE COME
TO ASK
HIRUKO TO
MARRY ME!!

IN YOUR
DREAMS
!!!



AND YOU'RE NOT
EXACTLY EXCITING
FOR ME EITHER.
IF I'M GOING TO
SPEND THE REST
OF MY LIFE WITH
SOMEONE, THEN
I WANT IT TO BE
WITH SOMEONE
EXTRAORDINARY.
SOMEONE LIKE
A BAKU.

WELL, I
DO FEEL
THAT THERE
IS SOME FATE
THAT LINKS US,
BUT I'VE
ALREADY GIVEN
MY HEART
TO MIZUKI.



I'VE
ALREADY
TRIED.
HE...

TSUKI-
SHIRO?

IF YOU
LIKE BAKUS,
THERE'S
ANOTHER
ONE...
BUT HE'S
CONNIVING
AND
VULGAR.



SO WHICH
WOULD YOU
PREFER?

HUH?



HUH?
REALLY?!

OH, SURE.
WHY NOT?
I DID IT
ONCE JUST
FOR FUN
ABOUT A
CENTURY
AGO.



YOU
WANT
TO
MARRY
ME?



TO BE A
BREEDING
GROUND FOR
NIGHTMARES
OR SOMEONE
WHO TAKES
CARE OF THE
BREEDERS?



BUT HE'S
CONNIVING AND
VULGAR, AND
ON TOP OF
THAT...



IF YOU LIKE
BAKLIS, THERE'S
A GUY AT THE
SILVER STAR
TEA HOUSE.



...HE'S DEPRESSING,
SHORT-TEMPERED,
STUPID, CHUBBY
AND BALD, SO HE
SAID, HE ASKED
IF I WAS OKAY
WITH THAT.



TSUKI-
SHIRO!



H-HHE
WENT TO
AMERICA!!

THAT'S
HER
IDEAL?!



HOWEVER,
I DON'T SEE
SUCH AN IDEAL
LIKE THAT
HERE. HAS HE
MOVED OUT?



*You have to
feed them and
talk to them or
else they go
crazy and rot.*

*Like that
woman that
went crazy.
I ended up
having to
cullivate the
dream myself.*

NEVER MIND...
YOU DON'T
UNDER-
STAND WHAT
MARRIAGE IS.

THE
NEXT
DAY...

I SEE.
WE'LL MAKE
SUCH A
HORRIBLE
FIRST
IMPRESSION
THAT THEY'LL
WANT TO
CANCEL THE
ENGAGEMENT!

WHAT?! I'M GOING
TO FOLLOW HIM!
I CAN'T GO THROUGH
WITH THIS ENGAGEMENT.
WHEN WE MEET OUR
FAMILIES TOMORROW,
LET'S WEAR ATTIRE
SO BIZARRE IT'LL
REVOLT THEM.

I KNOW.
ISN'T IT
PERFECTLY
BIZARRE?
I SPENT
A LOT OF
EFFORT
MAKING IT.
EVERYONE
WILL BE
SURPRISED.

HIRUKO,
I'M
RELYING
ON
YOU...

OF
COURSE
I CAN!

BUT
THESE
CLOTHES
CAN'T BE
SEEN BY
IDIOTS.
YOU'RE
SMART
SO YOU
CAN SEE
THEM,
RIGHT?

THUD

OH, HE
WENT BY
CAR? WILL
HE BE ALL
RIGHT IN
THAT STATE
OF MIND?

VRoo~

OKAY,
I'M
GOING.

WONDERFUL!
THIS DEEP RED
GARMENT...
IT'S...

I KNEW IT!
HE'S HAVING
A FANTASY...

THE HEE...
I'M ALIVE.
EVERY
HUNDRED
YEARS MY
FLOWER
BLOOMS
WHEN I COME
IN CONTACT
WITH THE
UNDERWORLD.

What! My
Broom!!

KAIRI?!
ARE YOU
ALIVE?!

BY THE
WAY, YOUR
APPEAR-
ANCE...

TH-TH-TH-
THESE
ARE SPECIAL
CLOTHES
THAT IDIOTS
CAN'T SEE.

I SUPPOSE...
THANKFULLY,
HIRIKO MADE
HUNDREDS
OF EXTRAS.
ARE YOU ABLE
TO SEE THEM?

WHAT?
YOU WANT
TO TRY
THEM ON?

...CAUSING A
MYSTERIOUS
POWER TO
SURGE
THROUGH
MY BODY!

DON'T
HAVE
SOME
STRANGE
FANTASY,
ALL
RIGHT?

SPECIAL... OF COURSE I CAN SEE THEM.



HUH?!
THAT NOISE!

NO, NOT
REALLY...

HIFU—!
I MEAN,
BLUE!
CAN YOU
FEEL
IT TOO?
THIS
POWER?

YOU KNOW,
I WAS
THINKING...
I GET THE
FEELING YOU
SHOULD'VE
LIVED IN
ANOTHER
TIME PERIOD,
YOU KNOW?

FEED ME
NIGHT-
MARES!
WHERE
ARE THE
NIGHT-
MARES!

IT'S
THE
MAGICAL
BEAST
HIRUGON
!!

AH!
AND
OVER
THERE
...

OH!
YELLOW
SHIMA.

I'LL
HELP!

RIGHT!
I HATE
MYSELF
FOR BEING
JEALOUS OF
SOMEONE
HAVING
SUCH A
GREAT
FANTASY.

WH-WHY?
WE WERE
COMRADES...
WHY DID
YOU BETRAY
ME...?

BANG

IT'S PINK
AZUS—



MOTHER,
I'M HOME.



OH,
FATHER...

HIFUMI?
LONG
TIME, NO—

BUT MY
PLACE IS
AT THE
SILVER
STAR TEA
HOUSE.
ANYWAY,
I'M GUNA
TO KISS
YOUR MUM'S
PARENTS
UPSET WITH
THESE
CLOTHES.



SIGH...
AN
ARRANGED
MARRIAGE,
HUH.
MAYBE
FATHER
IS JUST
LONELY...



WHAT?!
WELL OF
COURSE I
CAN SEE THEM!
DON'T TAKE
ME FOR
AN IDIOT!

NO!
THESE
ARE
SPECIAL
CLOTHES
THAT
IDIOTS
CAN'T
SEE!



AT
LEAST PUT
ON SOME
CLOTHES!
THINK OF ME,
YOUR POOR
PARENT! YOU
WORTHLESS
IDIOT OF
A SON!

WHACK





I'M
SHIGOROKU
ROKKAKU.

SHIGOROKU,
I WISH YOU
WOULDN'T.



MADAME
ROKKAKU
IS HERE.

MY
CLOTHES...
WHAT A
WASTE.



GASP!

I'M TERRIBLY
SORRY. MY
DAUGHTER IS
TAKING SO LONG
TO GET READY...



HUH?
IS IT GOING
ACCORDING
TO PLAN?

WHAT
IS THIS??
HOW
INSULTING!
I HAD BEEN
ASSURED
THAT THERE
WAS A RICH
YOUNG MAN
WHO LOOKED
JUST LIKE MY
DAUGHTER—
SOMEONE
MY STUBBORN
DAUGHTER
WOULD NOT
FAIL TO LIKE.
I CANNOT
LET THIS
ENGAGEMENT
PROCEED!

MY PRECIOUS
DAUGHTER IS
NOBLE AND FULL OF
INTELLIGENCE...

PARDON
ME.



HEY!
THAT
OUTFIT
...!

SO, DAD,
THAT MEANS I'M NOT
GOING TO TAKE OVER
THE FAMILY BUSINESS!
THERE'S SOMEONE I'VE
ALREADY GIVEN MY
HEART TO! I WON'T
COME HOME!

OH, I REALLY
DO FEEL LIKE
FATE LINKS US!



HERE'S AN IDEA!
LET'S NOT GET
MARRIED, BUT
JUST STAY
ENGAGED
FOREVER!



*What a
strange
son you
have...
I feel
for you.*



HEH HEH...
MY BUSINESS ONLY
EXISTS TO BE RUINED
BY MY OWN HANDS. IT
WILL GROW AND GROW,
AND THEN BE DESTROYED
IN AN INSTANT. I'LL
LEAVE YOU A GIFT OF
DEBTS TO TEST YOU...
**I WANT YOU TO
BE STRONG!**

*Whoa!
Then I'm
definitely
going to take
over the
business
someday!*



WHEN DID
I EVER
TELL YOU
TO TAKE
OVER THE
BUSINESS?

WHAT?
THEN!



I NEVER
PLANNED ON
RESTRICTING MY
BELOVED SON.

I WANT TO
HEAR THE
SOUNDS OF
PEOPLE
COMING AND
GOING...

IF ONLY IN ONE
SMALL CORNER OF
THIS 'LARGE' MANSION...

I
JUST...

THEN
WHY AN
ENGAGE-
MENT
ALL OF A
SUDDEN?

I JUST
WANTED TO
HEAR THE
VOICES OF
A FAMILY
AGAIN...

BUT...
FATHER!

SO HE IS LONELY, B...
BUT MY PLACE IS AT
THE 'SILVER STAR'
TEA HOUSE...

FATHER
...

WH-
WHAT
THE—?!
HOW
DARE
YOU
INSULT
ONE'S
FATHER!

*Though it's
all true...*

I FOUND HIM
HE'S DEPRESSING,
SHORT-TEMPERED,
STUPID, CHUBBY
AND BALD!

STUPID
GIRL...

AAGH!
DON'T EMBRACE
ME WITH A
FACE LIKE
MY SON'S!

YOU MAY
NOT BE
A BAKU,
BUT YOU'RE
MY IDEAL
MAN!!

WELL,
THAT'S FINE
BY ME. NOW
I CAN GO BACK
TO THE SILVER
STAR TEA HOUSE
WITHOUT ANY
WORRIES.

I'LL BE
YOUR
DAUGHTER!
YOU CAN
ADOPT ME!



MIZUKI!



I LIKE
THE WAY
THINGS
ARE NOW.
IT'S COM-
FORTING...



OH, SO
THAT'S
HOW IT
ENDED?
WELL,
THAT'S
GOOD.



SHE
WAS AN
ELEGANT
LADY...

WE CAN
NEVER HAVE
THAT TIME
BACK, BUT
MY FATHER...

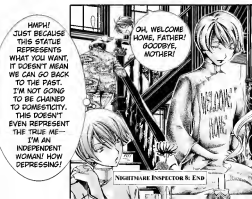


...

OH!



BUT I
DIDN'T
KNOW
THAT
YOU'D
LOST
YOUR
MOTHER.



HMPH!
JUST BECAUSE
THIS STATUE
REPRESENTS
WHAT YOU WANT,
IT DOESN'T MEAN
WE CAN GO BACK
TO THE PAST.
I'M NOT GOING
TO BE CHAINED
TO DOMESTICITY.
THIS DOESN'T
EVEN REPRESENT
THE TRUE ME—
I'M AN
INDEPENDENT
WOMAN! HOW
DEPRESSING!

OH, WELCOME
HOME, FATHER!
GOODBYE,
MOTHER!

NIGHTMARE INSPECTOR 8: END

THE LIVING SEPARATE LIVES UNDER THE SAME ROOF

あとがき

AFTERWORD



後

書

✂

AFTER-
WORD

*Hello, Shin Mashiba here!
Thanks for supporting this
series this far! The next
volume will be the last, so
please look out for it.*

PS.

*My assistants and I refer to
Tsukishiro as the "Substitute."
His true appearance has wavy
blond hair, a butterfly mask and
an avianlike nose. Or at least
that's what Shiroi says.*



感

謝

THANK
YOU!

◆
*My special friends
& assistants*
Wan Wan Shiroi
Atsushi

◆
My lovely assistants
Katsune Arai
Atschi
Atsuan
(for help with dactyls)

◆
A big thank you to:
My editor Tetsu Sasaki
Editor-in-chief
Everyone that was
involved with making
this book
Everyone at Square Enix!

♪
*Thank you very much for all your help over the years.
The next few pages are the usual guest pages by Shiroi.
It's an alternate retelling of the manga that may or may
not be a continuation from volume 8's "Abikudō's Boy"...*

*Katsune Arai is an assistant who has been working with us for a while. Katsune is young, but
has strange interests, so I'm always seriously observing him! Thank you for the wonderful
words who looks like he's either going to pick a fight or pick up a guitar.*

Atsushi



*It's been quite a few years since
that first day when I came carrying
a stuffed panda bear. I've been an
assistant since the second volume
other than the assistant friends.
I've been around the blocks!
laughs In this volume I already
That's amazing! Congratulations!
There is really flying by - it seems I'm
so glad that I could be involved
with *Abikudō's Boy* again for so
long. I look forward to next!*

*Katsune Arai
Assistant Assistant No.*



I'VE BEEN
REALLY
LOOKING
FORWARD
TO SEEING
THE FAMOUS
HIBIKO.



THE SIXTH
FLOOR IS
COMPLETELY
RESERVED
FOR THE
NIGHTMARE
INSPECTOR
EVENT.

IT'S MY
FIRST TIME
AT ONE OF
THESE.



GOING
UP.

GENERAL ADMITTANCE



YOU EVEN
AGREED TO
DRAW IN
PEOPLE'S
SKETCHBOOKS
IF THEY
ASKED YOU.

WHAT ARE
YOU SAYING?
YOU STAYED
UP ALL NIGHT
GETTING
YOUR MANGA
READY FOR
THIS DAY!



THAT
PERSON

OH, I WONDER
IF THAT PERSON'S
GOING TO MAKE
COPIES OF
THEIR BOOK.



WHAT
A PAIN.
I'M
TIRED...

ARTIST ADMITTANCE



YOU SAY
THAT, BUT
YOU FAILED
TO GET A
NEW BOOK ON
THE STANDS
IN TIME.

DON'T BE SO
RELUCTANT.
COME ON.
LET'S GET IN.



MONEY FOR
MAKING COPIES

THE MOST
IMPORTANT
THING IS THE
FEELINGS
YOU PUT
INTO YOUR
DRAWINGS.
IF YOU'RE
GOING TO
PARTICIPATE,
YOU SHOULD
DO EVERY-
THING YOU
CAN!!



THAT'S
RIGHT!
SO I FAILED
TO GET A
NEW BOOK
COMPLETED
IN TIME!
THAT'S WHY
I'M GOING
TO MAKE
SOME COPIES.
YOU GOT A
PROBLEM
WITH THAT?!



Some one's
here, might
not need any
more money
for life...

IT DOESN'T
DO ANY GOOD
TO BRING ALL
THAT MONEY.
THIS ISN'T A
COPY CENTER.
THE PHOTO-
COPIERS HERE
ONLY TAKE
COINS...



Oh my...
HOW
HORRIBLE
...

GENIUS...



MONEY
EQUIVALENT
TO HER
WORTH,
EH?

THERE'S SOME EXTRA SPACE LEFT, SO PLEASE USE IT AS A NOTE PAD.
YOU CAN WRITE DOWN WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND AND THEN LEND
NIGHTMARE INSPECTOR TO A FRIEND!



MEMO



Dreams on the menu in this volume: a different perspective on Chitose's past, Azusa's return as a Baku, a dream so horrible it corrupts all other dreams, and the final dream where only one Baku can survive the truth...



SHIN MASHIBA

The white cat's name is probably Miamu.

"Miamu" means "Like a dream."

Editor



Shin Mashiba's first manga, *Yumekui Kenban* (Nightmare Inspector), premiered in *Monthly Stencil*, a shojo magazine, in December 2001 and was then serialized in *Monthly G Fantasy* from 2003 to 2007. Mashiba-san's own nightmares include being forced to eat 50 living slugs and being chased by time.

NIGHTMARE INSPECTOR: YUMEKUI KENBUN ⑧

Shin Mashiba

Translation: Gemma Collinge

Touch-up Art & Lettering: James Gaubatz

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

YUMEKUIKENBUN Vol. 8 ©2006 Shin Mashiba/SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD.
First published in Japan in 2006 by SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD.

Translation ©2009 by SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD.

The print version of the English language edition of NIGHTMARE INSPECTOR was published in 2009 by VIZ Media, LLC.

All rights reserved. In accordance with the U.S. Copyright Act of 1976, the scanning, uploading, and electronic sharing of any part of this book without the permission of the publisher is unlawful piracy and theft of the author's intellectual property. If you would like to use material from the book (other than for review purposes), prior written permission must be obtained by contacting the publisher at permissions@hbgusa.com. Thank you for your support of the author's rights.

Yen Press
Hachette Book Group
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10104

HachetteBookGroup.com
YenPress.com

Yen Press is an imprint of Hachette Book Group, Inc. The Yen Press name and logo are trademarks of Hachette Book Group, Inc.

The publisher is not responsible for websites (or their content) that are not owned by the publisher.

First Yen Press ebook Edition: December 2014

ebook ISBN: 978-0-316-38574-9

App ISBN: 978-0-316-38575-6